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**Title:**

Statement: Worker Participation

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STATEMENT BY THE PREMIER, DON DUNSTAN.

SUBJECT: WORKER PARTICIPATION.

23/5/73.

The South Australian Premier (Don Dunstan) today released copies of two reports concerning Worker Participation in Management.

One report deals with the Private Sector and the other with the Public Sector.

They are the result of just over a year of study by two expert committees.

The Private Sector Committee was chaired by Professor G.M. Badger, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Adelaide.

Other members of the Committee were Messrs. R.K. Abbott, L.B. Bowes, I.S.D. Hayward, D.H. Laidlaw, J.R. Robbins and W. Voysey.

The Public Sector Committee was chaired by Mr. G.J. Inns a Commissioner of the Public Service Board.

Other members were Messrs. O.M. Kelsey, J.R. Robbins, and W. Voysey.

Mr. Dunstan said that the reports constituted an important beginning in an area where there had been much talk, but little action.

He said that the Government was now embarking upon a programme of implementing Committee recommendations concerning the Public Sector and would follow this up with the implementation of Committee recommendations covering the Private Sector.

The reports were the first serious investigation into Worker Participation undertaken by an Australian Government.

He stressed that the reports represented in no sense the last words on the subject of Worker's Participation in Industry,

"They provide a basis on which we can begin work."

"They will allow distinct moves to now be taken to ensure that employees in industry are not alienated but are able to have some effective say in the management of the work they do."

Mr. Dunstan said that for the time being only the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Report of the Public Sector Committee would be issued.

He said that this was one of the Committee's recommendations.

He said that the full report would be released at a later date this year after a number of its provisions had been examined in detail and an active policy had been formulated.

Mr. Dunstan said that in South Australia the very few joint consultation schemes existing mainly concerned themselves with industrial safety.

He said he believed it was necessary to extend consultation, especially in production line manufacture and in industries where workers have no real connection with the final product or any real notion of their own part in the necessary chain of processes.

The Premier also said that the Private Sector Committee has recommended the introduction of JOB ENRICHMENT schemes, noting that they seem more appropriate "in those companies where workers are required to undertake repetitive tasks".

He said that the South Australian Government-sponsored report on training needs in industry and commerce, recently released, had also referred pointedly to the particular recruitment, training and absenteeism problems arising in this kind of industry.

"In this field I believe we will be giving a lead to the rest of Australia."

"It is relevant to note that the public sector report commends our recent establishment of joint industrial consultative committees in the South Australian Meat Corporation, where job enrichment is a real and stated objective."

"The South Australian Theatre Company also has elected employee representation specifically written into its governing charter."

"I commend these reports to industry and to trade unions and to interested individuals as the first steps in moves designed to achieve a better industrial role for workers."

"Both committees have performed a great public service, and I thank them for their efforts."